

## **Gulf of Mexico Alliance Water Quality Team Conference Call Minutes**

**Date: December 4, 2007**

### **CONFERENCE CALL ATTENDEES**

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Jody Harwood	USF	<a href="mailto:vharwood@cas.usf.edu">vharwood@cas.usf.edu</a>

### **AGENDA**

1. Recap Oct 23 call and Action Items - *Danny Wiegand*
2. Monitoring Standardization "Round Robin for Data Comparability" Update - *Danny Wiegand/LaKeshia Robertson*
3. Report on Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Blooms Workshop in New Orleans (November 14-16, 2007) – *Mark Fisher/Bart Bibler*
4. NOAA National Sea Grant Office Gulf of Mexico Research Prioritization Workshops – *Danny Wiegand/Steve Wolfe*
5. NOAA Funding/Grant Opportunities - *Nancy Wallace*
6. Alliance Management Team Meeting, November 2007, and 2nd Alliance Action Plan - *Nancy Wallace*
7. Microbial Source Tracking/USF MST Project Information Sheet - *Jody Harwood (USF)*
8. Next Conference Call
9. Other Items

## MINUTES

1. Recap Oct 23 call and Action Items
  - Minutes and Action Items from October 23<sup>rd</sup> call are available at <http://www2.nos.noaa.gov/gomex/>.
2. Monitoring Standardization "Round Robin for Data Comparability" Fact Sheet
  - Danny Wiegand provided an update on the upcoming Round Robin. An e-mail was sent to the participants from the Monitoring Standardization workshops held in July 2007 and September 2007. Logistics information was requested (due November 26<sup>th</sup>) as well as comments on the Standard Operating Procedure drafted by Steve Wolfe (due November 21<sup>st</sup>). A conference call is scheduled for December 18, 2007 at 1:00 CST.
  - Bob Howard, EPA Region 4, suggested the Gulf NEPs be approached for participation in the Round Robin. It was agreed they will be approached for future phases of the Round Robin.
3. Report on Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Blooms Workshop in New Orleans (November 14-16, 2007)
  - Mark Fisher, TCEQ, provided a short report out from the HABs workshop. It was a successful effort where comments on the draft *HABs Integrated Observing System* document were “hammered” out resulting in post-workshop assignments for the respective authors to revise their sections of the document based on the discussions from the workshop.
  - Bart Bibler, FLDOH, supplemented Mark’s report out noting that the human health component was well represented at the workshop including participation by representatives from the CDC. Representatives from Mexican States were also in attendance. Meeting notes from the workshop will be posted on the GCOOS/HABs web site (<http://ocean.tamu.edu/GCOOS/Office/HAB.htm>) in the near future.
4. NOAA National Sea Grant Office Gulf of Mexico Research Prioritization Workshops
  - An FYI was provided on the subject series of workshops coming up at the beginning of 2008. The workshops will focus on refining of a [regional research prioritization survey](#) and identifying the most pressing research topics in the Gulf. More info is available at <http://masgc.org/gmrp/workshop.htm>.
5. NOAA Funding/Grant Opportunities
  - Nancy Wallace provided an overview of upcoming grant opportunities through NOAA to facilitate Alliance initiatives.
  - The grants are expected to total approximately \$4.5 Million pending the outcome of the budget passed by Congress.
  - The RFP is going out with the expectation that the full amount will be appropriated to NOAA. Letters of Intent (LOIs) are due by January 10, 2008; full proposals due in February; and awards in March 2008.

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- It is NOAA's intent in the RFP that proposals submitted by States focus on activities in the area where they are the Alliance lead, e.g. Florida → Water Quality.
- 6. Alliance Management Team Meeting, November 2007, and 2nd Alliance Action Plan
  - Nancy Wallace provided a report out from the AMT meeting in Tampa, FL.
  - The midcourse accomplishments report is currently being drafted.
  - The next steps of the Alliance discussed at the AMT include:
    - i. Suggested realigning Priority Implementation Teams (PITs).
    - ii. By April 2008, begin drafting next actions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan.
    - iii. By July 2008, have a draft of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan ready for the All-Hands Meeting.
    - iv. Finalize 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan by January 2009.
- 7. Microbial Source Tracking/USF MST Project Information Sheet
  - Jody Harwood, USF, provided an overview/update of the MST grant, "Validation and Field Testing of MST Methodologies in the Gulf of Mexico."
    - i. Focusing on genetic markers associated with human-specific pathogens.
    - ii. Utilizing conventional PCR instead of qPCR methods.
    - iii. Human-specific *Bacteroides* assay currently being tested in 3 labs at USF, USM, and UWF.
  - Bob Howard asked about turn around time of methodologies being studied. Dr. Harwood stated that the conventional PCR methods have a 1-day turn around time while the newer qPCR methods have a 4-6 hour turn around time.
  - Steve Wolfe, FDEP, requested Dr. Harwood complete the 1-page project summary requested on the October 23<sup>rd</sup> call and include a timeline and current research to aide Alliance in drafting actions of 2<sup>nd</sup> Action Plan.
- 8. Next Conference Call
  - It was agreed to reschedule the next call for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.
- 9. Other Items
  - Steve Wolfe announced that the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) developed a monitoring database called "Monitoring Locator" as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). SFWMD and USACE have stated they would be willing to offer up the CERP database for Gulf-wide use. This database contains metadata for other databases (not the actual data) and was developed to compile information on monitoring activities in Florida.

**ACTION ITEMS**

WHAT	WHO
Develop MST Project Summary/Information Sheet	Jody Harwood (USF)

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**NEXT CONFERENCE CALL**

NOTE: The next scheduled call will be 22 January 2008 at 1:00 CST. Please mark your calendars!